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## Clay Filters are Simple Solution for Clean Water

Access to clean water is critical to good health. It is a basic human need that when met, leads to the biggest improvements in health and well-being. Dirty water causes diarrhoea (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diarrhea>), cholera and typhoid. Diseases caused by dirty drinking water kill almost 5,000 children a day around the world (WHO).

But millions have benefited from a simple solution using clay filters invented and pioneered in Central America, and now manufactured by 28 small factories in 23 countries - the largest in Ghana and Cambodia. Each factory makes up to several thousand filters a day. They offer an ingenious solution that also creates local jobs and skills.

Looking like 30 centimetre-high flowerpots, the filters designed by Guatemalan chemist Fernando Mazariegos blend local clay and plant husks to create a filter capable of killing 98 percent of the contaminants that cause diarrhoea. The husks are burnt away when the filters are fired in a kiln, creating tiny holes that filter out harmful organisms. A coating of colloidal silver ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colloidal\\_silver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colloidal_silver)) is painted on the filters after they have been fired in the kiln.

"Each filter can support a family of six," said Kaira Wagoner, Coordinator of Ceramic Water Filter Projects with the NGO Potters for Peace ([www.pottersforpeace.org](http://www.pottersforpeace.org)). Founded in Nicaragua but now US-based, Potters for Peace has popularized the filters and helps with all the training and support required to establish the workshops and market the filters.

The first filter-making workshop was set up in Managua, Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch in 1999 ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane\\_Mitch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Mitch)). That workshop has made and distributed 40,000 filters through the Red Cross and NGOs such as Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders. Potters for Peace has now stopped running workshops and factories themselves, and provides others with the training and advice necessary to produce clay filters.

To work, the filters are placed in a plastic bucket, a spigot added, and a cover put on top to prevent contamination. The filters are capable of filtering four litres of water an hour.

The genius behind the filters is the fact they can be made by small, local workshops - making access to clean water available anywhere, and creating jobs. Just three to four people can produce up to 50 filters a day. According to tests by the Family Foundation of the Americas, a Guatemalan NGO, the filters halve the incidence of diarrhoea in households that use them.

"The cost of establishing a workshop varies largely," said Wagoner, "depending on the factory's location, desired production - from 50 per day to 1000 per day - and on the equipment already available in the potter's workshop. Potters for Peace generally tries to work with potters who already have some of the needed equipment, such as a hammer mill and clay mixer.

"Filters are distributed hand in hand with health and sanitation information which highlights practices such as hand washing," said Wagoner. "Since many individuals would otherwise boil their water, the filter significantly reduces the time many women would spend gathering firewood. This gives them time for other things such as school and income generating activities, and is better for the environment, especially in locations where problems with deforestation are significant."

Experience has found marketing is key to the successful adoption of the filters by communities.

"It is very difficult to create a market in a region of poverty," said Beverly Pillars, also from Potters for Peace, "and to gain acceptance of a new product that the community will want to purchase to keep a workshop sustainable. NGOs may distribute the ceramic water filters, but for the community to fully accept the idea of seeking out clean, safe drinking water on their own, we urge the local owners of the factory to be innovative in marketing.

"Our best approach has been to select partners in developing areas that have some experience such as a potter or brick maker, and help them to find methods that work in their communities to distribute as many of the ceramic water filters as possible, such as a distribution link through local health centres and small corner markets, adds in Yellow Pages, road signs."

To get a workshop up and running, they need to have a machine to press the clay filters, a kiln to fire them, and a pyrometer (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrometer>) to measure the temperature of the kiln. It usually takes between three and six weeks of training to become proficient at making the filters. Trainers help with acquiring the proper equipment, building the kiln, the clay filter formula, quality control procedures, and marketing techniques and materials.

"My advice to people wanting to start making filters is to look for local craftspeople to partner with," said Pillars. "Look at local access to brick, clay and sawdust. Be prepared for hard and rewarding work to bring safe, clean drinking water to developing populations.

"Every location is a best location, because the demand for safe, clean drinking water worldwide is so great. The beauty of the ceramic water filter technology is that it uses very few resources: clay, sawdust or other burnout material available and bricks for a kiln. We have found these resources to be present worldwide."

The filter has been cited by the United Nations' Appropriate Technology Handbook, and is used by the International Red Cross and the Nobel Prize winning medical relief organization Doctors Without Borders. There are plans to start more filter factories in Cote d'Ivoire, Bolivia and Somaliland.

## **LINKS:**

Potters for Peace began in Nicaragua in 1986.

**Website:** <http://www.pottersforpeace.org/>

There is a video describing the filters and links to all the enterprises making the filters around the world.

**Website:** <http://www.changemakers.net/node/5662>

The World Health Organization's clean water guidelines and resources.

**Website:** [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/dwq/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/en/)

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## Making Bamboo Houses Easier to Build

More than 1 billion people around the world lack decent shelter. Of these, the majority live in urban areas, usually in slums and informal settlements (UN-HABITAT). Latin America has a serious shortage of adequate housing: in Colombia, 43 percent of the population needs decent housing; in Brazil, 45 percent; Peru, 53 percent.

The challenge is to provide good quality homes without significantly harming the environment - and with constrained budgets. Bamboo - cheap, strong, quickly renewable and beautiful to look at (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo>) - is an ideal solution to replace traditional wood lumber. In Bolivia, pioneering work is underway to improve the quality of homes and buildings made with bamboo.

Bamboo is the fastest growing woody plant in the world, sometimes growing over 1 metre a day. Bolivia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolivia>) has about 17 identified bamboo species, of which five have a significant economic value. Around the world, there are 1,000 species of bamboo. They grow in a wide variety of climates, from cold mountains to hot tropical regions.

Once called the "poor man's timber" - a temporary building material to replace once there is more money - bamboo is now getting the respect it deserves. Bamboo for housing has a long history in Latin America, stretching back 4,500 years to ancient civilizations. In Asia, it has long been a traditional construction material. But most of the existing bamboo dwellings in Latin America are 50 to 100 years old.

The most popular species of bamboo used in South America is Guadua, which is known for being large, straight and attractive.

"In Bolivia, there is no other building material more competitive in costs," said Jose Luis Reque Campero, coordinator of the Bolbambu Programme of the Architectural Research Institute, Universidad Mayor de San Simon, Bolivia (<http://www.umss.edu.bo/>).

"Bamboo is the material that requires less energy, followed by wood and concrete, with steel in last place, needing energy necessary for its production 50 times greater than that required by bamboo."

Campero also says bamboo is much less expensive than traditional building materials.

"But the biggest advantage is certainly the possibility of planting bamboo, and then reaping houses," he said.

Campero has focused his efforts on a key component of bamboo housing: the joints that bind the bamboo poles together. Driven by the desire to find ways to improve the ease of building bamboo homes and their strength, Campero came up with the Bamboo Bolivia Space Structures, Structural System: EVO (BBSS-EVO) (named after Bolivia's president, Evo Morales - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evo\\_Morales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evo_Morales)).

Traditional joints took a long time to make and required power tools and complex instruction manuals. Simplifying the building techniques necessary for bamboo construction was important because, while bamboo was cheap, the labour costs were high.

The joint looks like a giant two-headed Q-Tip. Each end is made of four pieces of bamboo, connected by a long screw with bolts on each end taken from old cars. The joint is inserted inside the bamboo poles and snaps shut, joining poles tightly together and, as each piece is assembled, looking like a child's building toy as the structure of the bamboo home takes shape.

The new joint was easier to assemble and was quickly adopted by local builders. It also allows for a vast range of structures and shapes to be built, limited only by imagination and physics.

Devising joints made from bamboo has the advantage of avoiding the weight and cost of bringing in concrete, especially to remote areas.

"The manufacturing process is fully in the workshop and indoors," said Campero, "which in addition to allowing a degree of quality control in production, improves working conditions for staff and protects the material."

The whole building process adheres to "the principles of the famous phrase: 'do-it-yourself'."

The Evo joint allows for flexibility and easy assembly and disassembly, enabling the builder to move around parts of the structure and not be wedded to the original structural plan. This has the advantage of customizing the building to its physical location.

Working in the tropical forests of Cochabamba (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cochabamba>), Campero has been testing his designs with the local people, who were looking to improve the tourist infrastructure in the resort town of Cristal Mayu.

Costa Rica in Central America - ironically a country without indigenous bamboo plants - has used its National Bamboo Project of Costa Rica (<http://www.unesco.org/most/centram1.htm>) to prove it is possible to both cultivate bamboo and use it to provide housing for the poor, confirming the wisdom of millions of people: bamboo is economical, convenient, safe and looks great.

Campero has received a great deal of interest in his innovations and is looking for funding partners in 2009 to take his work further.

He has this advice for other builders and designers: "Stick to developing local technologies, use what you have and innovate, use native materials and the local environment for the development of elements, components and construction systems. Don't rely on advanced technology tools for manufacture, and stay in harmony with the human need for creativity."

#### **LINKS:**

UNEP, the UN's Environment Programme, has produced a report on bamboo biodiversity and how it can be preserved.

**Website:** <http://www.unep-wcmc.org>

The Asian Development Bank is using its Markets for Poor programme to link bamboo products to marketplaces, helping poor communities.

**Website:** <http://www.markets4poor.org/>

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

**Website:** [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

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## **Two-stroke Engine Pollution Solution**

Cities across the South choke on the pollution made by the small two-stroke engines (<http://www.howstuffworks.com/two-stroke.htm>) powering motor scooters, motorcycles, auto rickshaws, tuk-tuks and other vehicles. People choose these vehicles to get around because they are cheap, powerful and easy to fix. But the environment - and human health - suffers as a result. And as cities balloon and populations grow, the number of journeys and two-stroke engines grows with it.

In large cities across Asia, 1 million three-wheeled auto-rickshaws form an important means of daily transportation, and a source of income for their drivers. And the Asian Development Bank estimates there are over 100 million vehicles using two-stroke

engines in Southeast Asia. But these vehicles cause serious air pollution and emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which contributes to global warming.

Because two-stroke engines burn an oil-gasoline mixture, they also emit more smoke, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and particulate matter than the gas-only, four-stroke engines found in newer vehicles.

In the Philippines, auto rickshaw drivers are pioneering specially adapted two-stroke engines that reduce particulate emissions by 70 percent and carbon dioxide emissions by 76 percent.

Tim Bauer, the 31-year-old American mechanical engineer who developed the technology, said auto rickshaws "play an essential role in the social and economic fabric. But their impact on public health is disastrous."

Motorized tricycles produce an astonishing amount of pollution: each one is equivalent to 50 cars. In Bangkok, Thailand, two-stroke engines contribute 47 percent of pollution particulates in the air.

The World Health Organization ([www.who.org](http://www.who.org)) ranks urban outdoor air pollution as the 13th greatest contributor to disease burden and death worldwide. It has been estimated that the air pollution leads to the deaths of more than half a million people a year. About two-thirds of the residents of Delhi and Calcutta suffer from respiratory symptoms such as common cold and dry and wet cough, much of this caused by two-stroke engine emissions.

Two-stroke engines are highly inefficient users of fuel: up to 40 percent of the fuel and oil goes out of the exhaust pipe unburned. This exhaust is packed with oxides of carbon, nitrogen, sulphur, hydrocarbons and fine dust - all toxic contributors to air pollution.

But the attraction of these engines remains strong. "They are powerful, simple, reliable and robust," said Bauer, "and spare parts are easy to find. They also have a long lifetime."

Bauer faced some strict constraints in developing the technology.

"It had to substantially reduce emissions without impairing the engine's performance. It had to be installed without machining the engine crankcase, and with only a basic tool set. Of course, it also had to be affordable for Filipino drivers."

Using off-the-shelf components, Bauer developed a kit that turns two-stroke engines into fuel-injection machines. This adjustment reduced particulate emissions by 70 percent and carbon dioxide emissions by 76 percent. He now sells the kits through Envirofit, a non-profit organization (<http://www.envirofit.org/>). It has been pilot tested at two Filipino holiday resorts, Vigan and Puerto Princesa.

Auto-rickshaw drivers tend to be poor and earn on average US \$3 to US \$4 a day. The cost of fitting vehicles with Bauer's new technology is met by microcredit.

"Drivers earn money daily, so it's easy for them to pay back their loan, and 90 percent of them do it in less than a year," he said. Over 260 taxi drivers have already installed the new kit.

"These drivers are at the base of the economic pyramid and these tricycles are a testament to their ingenuity and work ethic. At the end of the day, we can improve their lives with a cylinder head, a few brackets and, of course, hard work."

Bauer pioneered his solution while working on fuel injection in snowmobiles at the Engines and Energy Conservation Lab at Colorado State University. He started to market the solution in Asia in 2004. Bauer has won a Rolex Award for Enterprise to pay for the distribution of the kits throughout Asia.

There is, of course, another solution: an outright ban or measures to push the vehicles off the road. In the Philippines' San Fernando City, economic incentives were what drove the transition from two-stroke to four-stroke (less polluting) tricycles. In 2001, three-quarters of the city's 1,600 registered tricycles ran on two-stroke engines. But after a city council mandate to totally phase out the vehicles by 2004, and offers of interest-free loans for down-payments on four-stroke models, more than 400 four-stroke tricycles had replaced the older two-stroke models.

When Bangkok toughened up vehicle inspections and emissions standards in 2000, two-wheelers made up over 96 percent of the city's traffic. But by March 2004, they made up only 40 percent, according to Supat Wangwongwatana, deputy director general of Thailand's Pollution Control Department.

#### **LINKS:**

- Tukshop is a website selling auto rickshaws and tuk-tuks. Website: <http://www.tukshop.biz/>
- A wide range of auto rickshaws for sale. Website: <http://www.auto-rickshaw.com/>
- The Hybrid Tuk Tuk Battle is a competition to come up with less polluting auto rickshaws, clean up the air in Asian cities, and improve the economic conditions for auto rickshaw drivers. Website: <http://hybridtuktuk.com/>
- The Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities promotes and demonstrates innovative ways to improve the air quality of Asian cities through partnerships and sharing experiences. It is run by the Asian Development Bank together with the World Bank and the US Agency for International Development. Website: <http://www.cleanairnet.org/>

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# Rammed-Earth Houses: China Shows how to Improve and Respect Traditional Homes

The pace of change across the South has been blistering. Over the past decade, the overall population has moved from being primarily rural to majority urban. In the process, rural communities have suffered, as they have seen their young and ambitious leave in droves seeking a better life in cities.

More than 200 million Chinese farmers have moved to cities in recent years. It's easy to see why. Chinese farms are tiny, with the average rural household farming just 0.6 hectares. And incomes are low compared to the cost of living: average annual income was just US\$606 in 2007, a third of city salaries.

But it is possible to improve the quality of life in rural areas and in turn boost economic fortunes.

In China, projects that upgrade homes to modern standards while respecting traditional designs and architecture are breathing new life into rural communities. A return to the age-old technique of using earth as the principal building material is saving energy and keeping house costs low.

The tradition of packing earth to build a wall dates back to some of the earliest stretches of the Great Wall of China in 220 BC.

Currently it is estimated that half the world's population-approximately 3 billion people on six continents - lives or works in buildings constructed of earth.

This traditional building technique is being used in the reconstruction effort to build new homes after the May 12, 2008 earthquake in Sichuan Province. The earthquake left millions of people homeless in the country's worst natural disaster in 30 years, and has made low-cost but efficient house building critical.

In western China, villages have been entirely rebuilt from scratch using the rammed earth building method. The application of research and science to the traditional designs - roofs in the pagoda style, with buildings arranged around courtyards - enabled the development of homes that are energy efficient to run, and are more hygienic and earthquake safe. In Yongren County of Yunnan Province, over 7,000 mountain dwellers were moved to better farming land and over 2,000 homes were built.

"The original homes had very low living quality," said Hu Rong Rong of the Green Building Research Centre of Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology (<http://www.xauat.edu.cn/jdeg/about.html>), which oversees building of the new homes. "The architecture layout of the indoor space and courtyard was not reasonable. In the courtyard the areas for living, raising livestock, storing and processing crops were mixed up. The indoor environment was not comfortable. It was cold in the

houses during winter and hot during summer. Most of the rooms lacked natural lighting and were dark in the daytime.

"In the poor areas, many people still live in earth houses because of the low cost. However, most of the earth houses have low living quality.

"After we finished the project, through our design, the living quality was improved very much. The dwellers were satisfied with their new houses."

Land reform in China has brought more hope to the country's 750 million rural poor, many of whom live on less than US\$1 a day. It is hoped that giving the rural poor more control over their lives will bring an improvement in agricultural production, food security and economic prosperity. Reforms also mean the poor have more secure land rights.

Hu said gaining the trust and buy-in of the villagers was critical to the success of the project.

"We built the first home as a demonstration. After we finished, the villagers could experience the advantages of the new home. Most of them decided to use our design and they could choose the one they liked from several proposals."

Poverty is a big problem in the villages. Incomes are very low, at 2000 RMB per year (US \$290). Hu said "families were given a house-building allowance of 8000 RMB (US \$1,160) to meet the cost of building materials - and the land was free for them to use."

"The villagers built the houses by self-help. We helped them to design and build the houses for free," Hu said.

The houses are pioneering in using natural sources to provide light, heat, waste disposal and gas for cooking and heating.

"We used natural material like earth as a main building material to get good thermal mass and also to reduce CO2 emission," Hu said.

"We designed a simple family sewage-purge-pool and marsh-gas-well system to reduce pollution and get energy from wastes."

Using rammed earth has a long history in China. Across Western China, there are many buildings constructed with rammed earth. And using earth has many advantages when resources are scarce or expensive: "Earth buildings avoid deforestation and pollution, and can achieve low energy costs throughout their lifetime," said Hu.

"With living standards increasing, more and more people would like to use burned bricks and concrete to build new houses, which will consume more energy and bring pollution," said Hu.

But like any technology, the application of modern science and environmental knowledge to the traditional designs, can reap huge improvements in the quality of the

homes and comfort levels. And win people back to the benefits of rammed earth dwellings.

"Building with earth materials can be a way of helping with sustainable management of the earth's resources," said Hu.

And Hu is adamant the new, environmentally designed homes respect the wisdom of traditional design.

"The new earth house design should consider the local culture. It should be proved that both the house style and the construction technique can be accepted by the users."

#### LINKS:

- The Rural Development Institute focuses on land rights for the poor and has a series of articles on China's land reforms. Website: [www.rdiland.org](http://www.rdiland.org)
- Rural Development Institute has recently been award from the World Bank's Development Marketplace competition to create Legal Aid and Education Centres in China's countryside. Website: [www.rdiland.org/PDF/092808\\_WorldBankComp.pdf](http://www.rdiland.org/PDF/092808_WorldBankComp.pdf)
- A blog gives more details on the Chinese rammed earth project. Website: [www.51xuewen.com](http://www.51xuewen.com)
- Earth Architecture, a book and blog on the practice of building with earth, including contemporary designs and projects. Website: [www.eartharchitecture.org](http://www.eartharchitecture.org)

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## Brazil Preserves Family Farms and Keeps Food Local and Healthy

Today's global food crisis sparked by a toxic mix of events - high oil and commodity prices, food scarcity, growing populations, and environmental catastrophes - has woken many up to the urgent need to secure food supplies and help those who grow the world's food. More and more countries are turning to local and small farms - or family farms - to offer food security when times get rough.

Right now there are more than 862 million undernourished people around the world (FAO), and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for food production to increase 50 percent by 2030 just to meet rising demand. Three-quarters of the world's poorest people living on less than US \$1 a day live in rural areas in developing countries and 85 percent of the world's farms are of less than two hectares in size.

There has long been a tension between those who believe in very large farms, agribusiness and mono-crops (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mono-cropping>), and those

who believe in having a large number of smaller farms with a wide variety of crops and animals.

Family farming has been seen as doomed for a long time. In the 19th century, figures like philosopher Karl Marx believed they would be split into capitalist farms and proletarian labour. Most modern economists regard family farming as an archaic way to grow food, destined to give way to agribusiness. Most family farms refute this, saying family farmers have been able to operate with success in both developed and developing countries.

And small farms have endured. The livelihoods of more than 2 billion people depend on the 450 million smallholder farms across the world. With their families, they account for a third of the world's population.

Family farms are critical to weathering economic crises and ensuring a steady and secure food supply. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) ([www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)) called earlier this year for small family farms to be put at the heart of the global response to high food prices and to improve food security. And in Brazil, this call is being answered by a bold initiative to create what they call a "social technology", combining a house building programme with diverse family farms.

Brazil is currently buying up unused land and distributing it to people making land claims, including Brazil's Landless Workers Movement (<http://www.mstbrazil.org>). When they receive land, family farmers often find there is no house on the land, or just a very basic dwelling.

This is where the Brazilian farmer's cooperative Cooperhaf: Cooperativa de Habitacao dos Agricultores Familiares (<http://www.cooperhaf.org.br/>), steps in. It has put together what it calls a "social technology" combining housing and farm diversification to support family farmers.

"We see the house as the core issue," said Adriana Paola Paredes Penafiel, a projects adviser with the Cooperhaf. "The farmers can improve their productivity but the starting point is the house.

"Family farming is very important for the country - 70 percent of food for Brazilians comes from family farming," said Penafiel. "The government wants to keep people in rural areas."

Started in 2001 by a federation of farmers unions, the Cooperhaf works in 14 Brazilian states with family farmers.

"Family farmers had to organize themselves to deal with housing," said Penafiel. "The cooperative was formed to mediate between farmers and the government. The farmers have a right in the law to a house.

"We promote diversification to make farmers less vulnerable: if they lose a crop in macro farming, they lose everything. We encourage diversification and self-consumption to guarantee the family has food everyday. We help to set up a garden."

The concept is simple: a good quality home acts as an anchor to the family farm, making them more productive as farmers. The farmers receive up to 6,000 reais (US \$2,290) for a house, and can choose designs from a portfolio of options from the Cooperhaf.

As in other countries, the Cooperhaf and other coops encourage markets and certification programmes to promote family farmed food and raise awareness. Penafiel says promoting the fact that the food is family farmed is critical: to the consumer it is healthier, fresher and contains fewer chemicals than imported produce.

"We sell a livelihood not a product. If you get to know the product, you are more conscious of what you eat."

In the US, there are almost 2 million farms, 80 percent of which are small farms, a large percentage family-owned. More and more of these farmers are now selling their products directly to the public.

In the UK, family farms are on course to provide 10 percent of the country's food and drink and be worth £15 billion a year.

"If we forget them, we actually may get a situation where, while meeting the world's immediate supply targets, we wind up with an even greater imbalance in the global supply system and greater food insecurity," said IFAD President Lennart Båge.

"Most agri business is for export," said Penafiel. "If we don't have food in the country, food for poor communities would not be available. This enables farmers to be more autonomous, not having to buy fertilizers and equipment and take on too much debt. That approach is not sustainable as we saw with the so-called Green Revolution."

#### **LINKS:**

- US-based Local Harvest uses a sophisticated website and map to help customers find local farmers and buy their products. It also is packed with resources and offers a good model for Southern farmers to work together. Website: [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org)
- Ela Family Farms is an organic fruit farm (peaches, apples, pears and cherries) that uses a website and sophisticated product marketing to sell the farm's produce. Website: <http://www.elafamilyfarms.com/>
- The global movement for slow food, which encourages organic production and appreciation of traditional foods and cooking. Website: [www.SlowFood.com](http://www.SlowFood.com)

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## **Window on the World**

- **The Post-American World**  
 by Fareed Zakaria, Publisher: Allen Lane.  
 "This is not a book about the decline of America, but rather about the rise of everyone else." So begins Fareed Zakaria's important new work on the era we are now entering. It describes with equal prescience a world in which the United States will no longer dominate the global economy, orchestrate geopolitics, or overwhelm cultures. He sees the "rise of the rest" - the growth of countries like China, India, Brazil, Russia, and many others - as the great story of our time, and one that will reshape the world. Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **The Second World: Empire and Influence in the New Global Order**  
 by Parag Khanna, Publisher: Allen Lane.  
 It offers a study of the 21st century's emerging geopolitical marketplace dominated by three first world superpowers, the U.S., Europe and China. Each competes to lead the new century, pursuing that goal in the third world: select eastern European countries, east and central Asia, the Middle East Latin America, and North Africa. Khanna interprets the coming years as being shaped by the race to win the second world-and in the case of the U.S., to avoid becoming a second-world country itself.  
 Website: <http://www.paragkhanna.com/>
- **Rogue Economics**  
 by Loretta Napoleoni, Publisher: Seven Stories Press.  
 Respected economist and journalist Loretta Napoleoni shows how the world is being reshaped by dark economic forces creating victims out of millions of ordinary people whose lives have become trapped inside a fantasy world of consumerism. A world built by organisations both private and public which have accumulated vast fortunes and enormous political influence by regulating, containing and manipulating the market to their own advantage.  
 Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **Development with Dignity: A Case for Full Employment**  
 by Amid Bhaduri, Publisher: National Book Trust  
 Website: <https://www.bagchee.com/books.php?id=50556>
- **Founders at Work: Stories of Startups' Early Days**  
 by Jessica Livingston, Publisher: Apress  
 . It is a collection of interviews with founders of famous technology companies about what happened in the very earliest days. These people are celebrities now. What was it like when they were just a couple friends with an idea? Founders like Steve Wozniak (Apple), Caterina Fake (Flickr), Mitch Kapor (Lotus), Max Levchin (PayPal), and Sabeer Bhatia (Hotmail) tell you in their own words about their surprising and often very funny discoveries as they learned how to build a company.  
 Website: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- **Sustainable Development: Linking Economy, Society, Environment**  
 Publisher: OECD Insights. A succinct examination of the concept of sustainable development: what it means; how it is impacted by globalisation, production and consumption; how it can be measured; and what can be done to promote it.  
 Website: <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop>
- **OECD Investment Policy Reviews: China 2008**  
 Publisher: OECD Insights. Reviews Chinese government efforts to encourage

responsible business conduct against the backdrop of recent regulatory changes and China's increasing outward investment.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop>

- **The World Health Report 2008: Primary Health Care - Now More Than Ever**

Publisher: WHO. Why a renewal of primary health care (PHC), and why now, more than ever? Globalization is putting the social cohesion of many countries under stress, and health systems are clearly not performing as well as they could and should. People are increasingly impatient with the inability of health services to deliver. Few would disagree that health systems need to respond better - and faster - to the challenges of a changing world. PHC can do that.

Website: <http://www.who.int/whr/2008/en/index.html>

- **Mobile Messaging Futures 2009-2013: Analysis and Growth Forecasts for Mobile Messaging Markets Worldwide: 3rd Edition Worldwide**

Publisher: Portio Research. Mobile messaging is a USD \$130 billion industry in 2008, and forecasts show that value rising to reach USD \$224 billion by the end of 2013.

Website: <http://www.portioresearch.com/MMF09-13.html>

## Upcoming Events

### 2009

#### January

- **World Economic Forum**

*Davos, Switzerland (28 January 2009)*

The Annual Meeting integrates the top decision-makers from all sectors of global society and engages them in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Participation is by invitation only and strictly limited to the criteria and quota of each stakeholder group.

Website: [www.weforum.org/en/events/AnnualMeeting2009/index.htm](http://www.weforum.org/en/events/AnnualMeeting2009/index.htm)

#### February

- **Localisation on Environmental Business and Supply Base in India**

*New Delhi, India (3 February 2009)*

The goal of the Second International Scientific and Business Congress on Protecting the Climate is to further the development and transfer of clean technologies, as well as the creation of a localisation program in India with the emphasis on private business.

Website: [www.EuroAkadem.com/climate](http://www.EuroAkadem.com/climate)

- **Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2009**

*New Delhi, India (5 February 2009)*

The DSDS a global forum that seeks to provide long-term solutions for sustainable development. It has witnessed participation by global stakeholders

including heads of state/government, ministers, and dignitaries comprising Nobel laureates, development practitioners, scientists, academicians, and corporate leaders from across the world. The summit in 2009 would seek to reinforce the climate change agenda of the previous year.

Website: [dsds.teriin.org/2009/index.htm](http://dsds.teriin.org/2009/index.htm)

## March

- **Fair Trade Business Conference 2009**

*Portland, Oregon, USA (27-29 March 2009)*

As it celebrates its 15th birthday, the Fair Trade Federation will bring together leaders in the field of fair trade and social enterprise to discuss key issues and offer practical training to improve operations.

Website: [www.FairTradeFederation.org](http://www.FairTradeFederation.org)

## April

- **CALL FOR PANELS & WORKSHOPS: 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009)**

*Doha, Qatar (17-19 April 2009)*

The 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009) will be held 17-19 April 2009 at Carnegie Mellon's state-of-the-art campus in Doha, Qatar. This conference will act as a focal point for new scholarship in the field of ICT and international development. Confirmed speakers include a Keynote by William H. Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Website: <http://www.ictd2009.org>

>> **Proposals deadline: 2 November 2008**

## Training Opportunities

### ONGOING

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: <http://ocw.mit.edu/>

- **Youth Financial Services Course: Emerging Best Practices**

*Washington DC, USA, (17-19 September 2008)*



--Drawing from experts and experiences around the world this highly interactive course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of current best practices and emerging lessons from those who are offering credit and savings products to youth.

The objective of this course is to provide practical information that will assist youth-serving organizations when deciding which service and delivery mechanisms are most appropriate for their youth populations and program objectives. This is aimed at decision-makers of youth-serving organizations and others who are interested in offering youth financial services to their respective youth populations.

Click the link for the registration form: [registration](#).

- **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**  
[Grameen Info](#)
- **Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners**  
The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates  
Website: <http://rs6.net>
- **The Citizen Journalism in Africa Programme**  
--The Hivos/SANGONeT Civil Journalism in Africa Project aims at building the capacity of civil society organisations to use online and offline citizen journalism as a means of publication, lobby, networking and knowledge sharing with their constituencies. The focus will be on both traditional and new media. Special attention will be given to the development of sound and ethical journalistic, lobby, networking and publication skills. Supported by the European Union, the project will be implemented over the next three years.  
Website: <http://www.citizenjournalismafrica.org/>
- **The Grassroots Reporting Project**  
--One of our goals at AfriGadget (<http://www.afrigadget.com/>) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.  
Website: <http://www.afrigadget.com/>

## CAREERS

- **New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**  
 --Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, [Africancareerguidance.com](http://Africancareerguidance.com) is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.  
 Website: [www.africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com)
- **African Diaspora Skills Database**  
 This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.  
 Website: <http://www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database>
- **Aid Workers Network (AWN)**  
 Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.  
 Website: <http://www.aidworkers.net>
- **Bizzlounge**  
 Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.  
 Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>
- **Business Action for Africa**  
 Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.  
 Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>
- **Business Fights Poverty**  
 Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.  
 Website: <http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com>
- **Business in Development Network (BiD)**  
 The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.  
 Website: <http://www.bidnetwork.org>

- Catalogue of Poverty Networks**  
 UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.  
 Website: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do>
- Connections for Development (CfD)**  
 CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".  
 Website: <http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk>
- Development Crossing**  
 Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.  
 Website: <http://www.developmentcrossing.com>
- DevelopmentAid.org**  
 The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.  
 Website: <http://www.developmentaid.org>
- dgCommunities on the Development Gateway**  
 dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.  
 Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>
- Diaspora African Forum**  
 This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.  
 Website: <http://www.diasporafricanforum.org>
- Eldis Communities**  
 Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important

to you.

Website: <http://community.eldis.org>

- **Enterprise Development Exchange**

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: <http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org>

- **Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum**

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

- **Global Development Matters**

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: <http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org>

- **GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development**

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Websites: *Africa:* <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-afrika/gtz-community/>  
*Middle East and North Africa:* <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

*Asia:* <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

- **LED knowledge**

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: <http://www.ledknowledge.org>

- **Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)**

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html>

- **TakingITGlobal.org**

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and

global communities.

Website: <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

- **XING Group Microfinance Industry**

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: <http://www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179>

- **AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service**

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: <http://www.afdevinfo.com>

- **Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)**

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: <http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org>

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

--This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: [www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

- **Piramal Foundation in India**

--Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: [www.piramalprize.org](http://www.piramalprize.org)

- **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

--This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open

to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: [Pioneers of Prosperity](#)

- **African Writers Fund**

--Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: <http://www.trustafrica.org>

- **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

--Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

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[namstct@bol.net.in](mailto:namstct@bol.net.in);  
[apknam@gmail.com](mailto:apknam@gmail.com);

Website: <http://www.scidev.net>

- **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

--Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Click [here](#) for more information

- **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

--AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: <http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/>

- **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za>



- **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**  
--A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, [www.focuss.info](http://www.focuss.info) is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.  
Website: <http://focuss.info/>
- **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**  
--A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.  
Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>
- **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**  
--They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).  
Website: <http://www.echoinggreen.org/>
- **2008 Sustainable Banking Awards**  
--The Financial Times, in partnership with IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, today launched the 2008 edition of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards, the leading awards for triple bottom line banking.  
  
Two new categories - Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year - have been added to the ground-breaking programme.  
  
The awards, now in their third year, were created by the FT and IFC to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.  
Website: <http://www.ifc.org>

## FUNDING

- **UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation**  
--The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.  
Website: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)
- **Funding - Google.org**  
--While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high

impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment. Website: [www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

- **Challenge InnoCentive**

--A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com/>

You can read more about the challenges here: <http://www.rockfound.org>

- **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

--Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: [www.socialedge.org](http://www.socialedge.org)

## Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)



- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to  
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[\[cosmas.gitta@undp.org\]](mailto:cosmas.gitta@undp.org) Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South  
Cooperation